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Message Text

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20
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 L-03 EB-07 IO-10 PRS-01 SP-02

PM-04 INR-07 /059 W
---------- 071667
R 100300Z NOV 75
FM AMCONSUL PORT MORESBY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1029

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 PORT MORESBY 1169

STADIS//////////////////

E.O. 11562: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PP
SUBJECT: APPROPRIATE CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN
GPNG AND GUAM

1. PNG DEPT OF FOREIGN RELATIONS HAS FORWARDED COPY OF LETTER
PRIME MINISTER SOMARE TO THE GOVERNOR OF GUAM FOR TRANSMISSION
BY THE EMBASSY TO GUAM BY THE APPROPRIATE CHANNELS. TEXT
OF LETTER FOUND BELOW. POST WILL FORWARD ORIGINAL TO DEPT.
OR TO GUAM WHICHEVER PREFERABLE, BUT WOULD APPRECIATE INDICATION
PROCEDURE FOR FUTURE HANDLING OF THIS TYPE CORRESPONDENCE.
POST WILL AWAIT DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS.

2. BEGIN TEXT: HIS EXCELLENCY, THE HONOURABLE RICARDO J.
BORDALLO, GOVERNOR OF GUAM, TERRITORY OF GUAM, OFFICE OF
THE GOVERNOR, AGANA, GUAM 96910, USA. YOUR EXCELLENCY, I
HAVE RECEIVED YOUR LETTER OF THE 14TH MAY ABOUT THE LAW
OF THE SEA CONFERENCE. THE LETTER RECEIVED BY ME WAS IN FACT
ADDRESSED TO THE PRIME MINISTER OF WESTERN SAMOA BUT I ASSUME
THAT THIS ERROR WAS CAUSED BECAUSE A SIMILAR DOCUMENT WAS
DESPATCHED TO SEVERAL ADDRESSEES. ACCORDINGLY, I WILL TAKE
THE LIBERTY OF TREATING YOUR LETTER AS IF ADDRESSED TO MYSELF.

3. I AGREE ENTIRELY WITH WHAT YOU SAY ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE
OF THE LAW OF THE SEA TO PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES AND TERRI-
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TORIES. ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS MY GOVERNMENT HAS CONSIDERED

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QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE LAW OF THE SEA AND HAS APPROVED POLICY OBJECTIVES IN THIS AREA. BECAUSE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE DEVELOPING LAW OF THE SEA TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENT ATTENDED THE FINAL THREE MEETINGS OF THE SEABED COMMITTEE WHICH PERFORMED THE PREPARATORY WORK FOR THE CONFERENCE. THE FIRST SESSION OF TH E CONFERENCE WAS A PREPARATORY MEETING IN NEW YORK AT THE END OF 1973. FIVE PAPUA NEW GUINEA REPRESENTATIVES, INCLUDING EXPERTS IN THE FIELDS OF INTERNTIONAL LAW AND FISHERIES, ATTENDED THE CARACAS SESSION. MAINLY AS A RESULT OF AN INITIATIVE TAKEN BY THOSE REPRESENTATIVES AT CARACAS AN INVITATION WAS EXTENDED BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO SEVERAL NAMED NON-INDEPENDENT COUNTRIES TO ATTEND SUBSEQUENT SESSIONS OF THE CONFERENCE IN THEIR OWN RIGHT AS OBSERVERS. CONSEQUENTLY AT THE GENEVA SESSION A DELEGATION FROM PAPUA NEW GUINEA PARTICIPATED IN THE CONFERENCE IN ITS OWN RIGHT. OTHER SELF GOVERNING NON-INDEPENDENT COUNTRIES TO AVAIL THEMSELVES OF THIS OPPOTUNITY WERE THE COOK ISLANDS, NAURU AND THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS. MY GOVERNMENT IS AT THE PRESENT TIME CONSIDERING A REPORT FROM ITS REPRESENTATIVES AT THE GENEVA SESSION.

4. ALTHOUGH THERE ARE SOME DIFFERENCES OF INTEREST AMONG COUNTRIES OF THE PACIFIC, IT HAS BEEN ACCEPTED FOR SOME TIME THAT FOR THE MOST PART THEIR INTERESTS DO COINCIDE, AND THAT THERE IS CONSIDERABLE SCOPE FOR CO-OPERATION AND A JOINT APPROACH TO MAIN ISSUES RAISED BY THE CONFERENCE. ACCORDINGLY, FOLLOWING THE LAW OF THE SEA QUESTION BEING RAISED AT A MEETING OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION A MEETING OF PACIFIC COUNTRIES WAS CONVENED IN JUNE 1974 AT SUVA BY THE SOUTH PACIFIC BUREAU FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION. THE PURPOSE OF THIS MEETING WAS TO DISCUSS ISSUES OF CONCERN TO THE REGION AND TO DEVELOP, WHERE POSSIBLE, A COMMON APPROACH AT THE CARACAS SESSION. THE MEETING WAS ATTENDED BY REPRESENTATIVES FROM AUSTRALIA, COOK ISLANDS, FIJI, NAURU, NEW ZEALAND, TONGA, WESTERN SAMOA AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA. IT WAS GENERALLY FELT THAT THIS MEETING SUCCESSFULLY ACHIEVED ITS PURPOSE.

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 PM-04 SP-02 INR-07 IO-10 L-03

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EB-07 PRS-01 /059 W
---------- 071700
R 100400Z NOV 75
FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1030

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 PORT MORESBY 1169

STADIS//////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, PP
SUBJECT: APPROPRIATE CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN GPNG AND GUAM

5. FOLLOWING THIS PRECEDENT, AND AFTER ASCERTAINING THAT SUCH AN INITIATIVE WOULD BE WELCOME, PAPUA NEW GUINEA TOOK THE STEP OF CONVENING A SIMILAR MEETING IN PORT MORESBY ON THE 4TH AND 5TH MARCH THIS YEAR TO CONSIDER ISSUES AND TO DISCUSS GENERAL STRATEGY AT THE GENEVA SESSION. THAT MEETING WAS ATTENDED BY REPRESENTATIVES FROM AUSTRALIA, NAURU, NEW ZEALAND, SOLOMON ISLANDS, TONGA AND WESTERN SAMOA. MESSAGES WERE RECEIVED FROM FIJI AND COOK ISLANDS. FOLLOWING INTEREST SHOWN AT THE CARACAS SESSION THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS HAD BEEN INVITED BUT, DUE TO A BREAK-DOWN IN COMMUNICATIONS, DID NOT RECEIVE THE INVITATION IN TIME TO ATTEND.

6. AS YOU MAY KNOW, AT THE GENEVA SESSION THE CONFERENCE HELD RELATIVELY FEW FORMAL MEETINGS, AND MOST WORK WAS DONE IN INFORMAL WORKING GROUPS BASED ON SPECIAL INTERESTS OR REGIONS. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES THE COUNTRIES OF THE PACIFIC DECIDED TO FORM THEIR OWN QTE OCEANIA GROUP UNQTE. THIS GROUP CONSISTED OF AUSTRALIA, FIJI, NEW ZEALAND, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, TONGA, TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS AND WESTERN SAMOA.

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THE COOK ISLANDS AND NAURU WERE NOT AT THE CONFERENCE FOR A SUFFICIENT LENGTH OF TIME TO BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GROUP. IN ADDITION TO CONSIDERING THE INTERESTS OF ITS MEMBERS THE GROUP ALSO CONSIDERED THAT IT WAS BROADLY REPRESENTATIVE OF THOSENON-INDEPENDENT COUNTRIES OF THE PACIFIC REGION WHO WERE NOT PARTICIPATING IN THE CONFERENCE.

7. THE OCEANIA GROUP WAS ABLE ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS TO MAKE AN EFFECTIVE CONTRIBUTION TO THE CONFERENCE. IT DEVOTED MUCH OF ITS TIME TO THE TWO ISSUES OF THE FISHING OF HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES AND THE REGIME OF ISLANDS. ON THESE MATTERS THE GROUP GAINED A CONSIDERABLE TACTICAL SUCCESS IN HAVING CERTAIN OF ITS

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FORMULATIONS INCLUDED IN THE SINGLE NEGOTIATING TEXT WHICH
IS THE BASIC DOCUMENT ON WHICH FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS WILL TAKE
PLACE. IT WAS AGREED AMONG THE GROUP TO RECOMMEND TO GOVERNMENTS
THAT A FURTHER INTER-SESSIONAL MEETING SHOULD BE CONVENED
TO REVIEW DEVELOPMENTS. THIS IS LIKELY TO TAKE PLACE IN EITHER
TONGA OR WESTERN SAMOA BUT NO DATE HAS YET BEEN FIXED.

8. IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA CONSIDERABLE TIME ANDEFFORT HAS BEEN
SPENT IN SUUDYING THE SINGLE NEGOTIATING TEXT AND ITS
IMPLICATIONS.

9. I AM MOST GRATEFUL FOR YOUR OFFER TO ASSIST PAPUA NEW GUINEA
AND OTHER COUNTRIES OF THE PACIFIC IN OBTAINING FURTHER EXPERTISE
IN RELATION TO THE LAW OF THE SEA. HOWEVER, YOU WILL SEE THAT
OUR OWN CONSIDERATION OF THE SUBJECT HAS REACHED A FAIRLY
ADVANCED STAGE, AND I FEEL THAT THE APPROPRIATE FORUM FOR FURTHER
REGIONAL CO-OPERATION IS WITHIN THE OCEANIA GROUP THAT HAS
ALREADY BEEN CONSTITUTED FO R THAT PURPOSE. HOWEVER, I DO
NOT HAVE A FIRM VIEW ON THE MATTER AND I WOULD WELCOME CORRESPONDENCE
ON THE SUBJECT. THE APPROPRIATE OFFICIAL TO WHOM CORRESPONDENCE
SHOULD BE DIRECTED IS THE SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN
RELATIONS AND TRADE, GOVERNMENT OFFICES, WAIGANI,
PAPUA NEW GUINEA.

10. I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER GUAM WOULD FEEL THAT IT MIGHT
APPROPRIATELY ASSOCIATE ITSELF IN SOME WAY WITH THE EFFORTS
OF THE OCEANIA GROUP IN THIS FIELD. A REPRESENTATIVE OF TONGA
HAS KINDLY AGREED TO ACT AS THE INFORMAL SECRETARY AND CONVENOR
OF THE GROUP DURING THE INTER-SESSIONAL BREAK. IF YOU SHOULD
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WISH TO COMMUNICATE WITH HIM HE IS MR. TEVITA TUPOU, CROWN
SOLICITOR, NUKUALOFA, TONGA.

11. RECIPROCATING YOUR KIND EXPRESSIONS OF ESTEEM, I REMAIN
(SIGNED) M.T. SOMARE. END TEXT. OLMSTED

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 10 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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To: STATE
Type: TE
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